CONCESSION TO JOURNALISTS IN TRAIN FARE

1074. SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of concession given to accredited journalists in the rail journey;

(b) whether this concession applies to the second class air conditioned coaches also; and

(c) if so, the percentage of concession provided therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Rail travel coupon books at 25 per cent concession in I Class and 50 per cent concession in II Class are issued to the Press Correspondents Accredited to the Government of India and the State Governments/Union Territories for journeys performed on business connected with bonafide Press work.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

CONVERSION OF AGRA-KATHGODAM RAILWAY LINE

1075. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had accorded approval to convert Agra-Kathgodam metre-gauge line into broadgauge during 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not making any progress in this regard and the steps taken in regard thereto so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Construction of a new BG line from Rampur-Haldwani/Kathgodam has already been taken up and is targetted for completion in 2 to 3 years time. Therefore, BG link from Agra to Kathgodam via Aligarh would be established.

BARHAN-ETAH RAILWAY LINE

1076. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whehter Barhan-Etah railway section is running in loss continuously;

(b) whether the number of goods trains plying on this section is limited; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to meet the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Goods trains are being ordered as per traffic offering, which is intermittent.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE ELECTRICITY BOARDS

1077. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIOAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance given to the State Electricity Boards during the last two years by the Rural Electrification Corporation; and

(b) the details of the number of villages electrified during that period, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The Rural Electrification Corporation has furnished financial assistance as loan to the tune of Rs. 71.278 lakhs and Rs. 70,049 lakhs (provisional) to the State Electricity Boards during 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.